

## PRO. NICKELS MAKES ADDRESS.

His Interesting and Instructive Paper Read at the Educational Campaign Thursday.

I understand aright the purpose of this educational campaign, it is that the men of all walks of life, teachers, trustees, farmers, business and professional men, one and all, might be brought together for a day to take stock, so to speak—of their educational affairs, and to see what this business of educational is doing. In other words we have come together to make the proper entry of the losses, if the business is not thriving, and on the other hand, if there be gain in this business we wish to declare a just dividend. The purpose of this educational campaign is similar to that which prompts the merchant to take stock of his business. He wishes to have the facts about his business in figures, so that he may wisely map out a course to pursue in his future undertakings. He wishes to compare his success of one year with that of former years and if he is keeping abreast with competitors or out stripping them it is a stimulus to him for larger efforts. If on the other hand the business is not prospering it behooves him to cut out the unprofitable features and to put into his business new plans and methods in order that success may follow. So it is our purpose today, not so much to dispense eloquence and poetry, but to make a plain, honest investigations of our school conditions, to express due appreciation of their merits, and to make a frank admission of their shortcomings. It would not be wise for us to note only the progress and development of our schools, and not to take into account those conditions which are not satisfactory.

It has been my good fortune to be a teacher in the schools of Marion county for the past 14 years, and during this time I have been very much interested in watching the growth of our schools. It shall be my purpose to bring to your attention some of the progress and development which the schools of the county have made during these years; also, with the aid of some statistics, show how some of our educational conditions rank in comparison with other counties of the state, and as I go along note some of the conditions which are far from satisfactory. While the schools of Marion county today are in many respects far from what we might wish them to be, yet as we look at the improvement that has been made along all lines in some of our schools during the time referred to, it seems nothing less than wonderful. This is an age though of rapid development, large endeavor, and big undertakings in the business world, and it should not surprise us to see this spirit of progress manifesting itself in improved school conditions.

We are glad to report that the schools of Marion county are improving.

It is true that some rural communities have undergone changes for one reason and another, and the schools in these districts may not be as good as they once were, yet the loss here is made up many times over by the growth of other neighboring schools. During the past ten years, either a new school house has been built in each school district in the county or the old building has been remodeled and enlarged. As I have watched the growth of some of our schools

it has reminded me of a rapidly growing boy, just entering his teens. Before he can feel at home in one pair of pants, he is compelled to discard them for another pair of larger proportions. The town schools in the county for the past ten years have had the problem of more room and a larger teaching force confronting them almost every year. The Latta school, for instance ten years ago was run by one teacher in an old dilapidated, unceiled frame building of one room. In the meantime this was replaced by a neat four room frame building of one story, then shortly a second story was added to this, and to day Latta has a modern brick school house, with 8 well furnished classrooms, and a large auditorium, the building costing possibly \$15000. The experience of the other town schools in the county has been similar to that of Latta. While there is this marked improvement in the school buildings in the county, few if any of our school houses are as good in every respect as they should be yet in almost all of them the pupils can be made reasonably comfortable. Just here I might add that our school house should be the most costly and attractive building in the community. Marion county in 1900 was expending for school purposes about \$22,000 and in 1908, \$45,000. In eight years the revenue for school purposes has over doubled. The increase in revenue has been much greater in the town schools than in the country schools. The town schools have nearly four times as much revenue now as they had eight years ago.

The efficiency of our teaching force we think has increased in a similar proportion to that of our revenue.

Marion county has on the average about as good teaching force as can be found in the state.

In the past 3 years our teachers have shown a lively interest in getting for their school rooms better equipments—such as patent desks, substantial blackboards, charts, maps, globes, pictures etc. Ten years ago I doubt if there was a good set of maps in any school in the county with the possible exception of the Marion graded school. Within the past 3 years I have sold to the teachers of this county about 30 sets of maps, with 6 or 8 maps to the set, on spring rollers in neat oak cases, and about half as many substantial 12 inch globes. To the credit of the teachers, it may be said that in almost every case they raised the money independent of the school fund with which to purchase these necessary helps. While there is marked improvement here, there are many schools in the county that have practically no teaching helps. The good effects of the rural school improvement association have been felt in our county and one or two of the schools received prizes offered by this association. I wish to suggest in this connection tho' the thought is not mine, that the county board of education ought to have at its disposal, a fund sufficient to employ a well trained competent woman teacher for the entire scholastic year. This woman should be required to give her entire time to the most backward rural communities. She could spend 2 or 3 days, and in some cases a week, with a teacher, and from actual teaching demonstrate many matters of discipline and method. She could devise programs of recitation so that the teacher's time would be distributed most economically. She could point out the conditions most in need of improvement and suggest plans by which the defects could be remedied. In

fact she could be of help to the inexperienced rural teacher in a hundred ways and her salary would be many times repaid in the good that would come to the schools from her work.

I have no statistics to prove it, but it is safe to say that the average length of the school term in the county has been increasing from year to year. The large increase in revenue for school purposes indicates that our school term has been decidedly lengthened. The average length of the school term for the state is 23-4 weeks or a little less than 6 scholastic months. The average length of the term for Marion county is 24 weeks. Again drawing a comparison there are 18 counties of the 42 in the state which have a longer average term than Marion, and 3 counties have the same length of term as Marion. So from this we see that Marion holds exactly a middle position, saving herself from reproach and yet having small cause for congratulation. As the average for the schools of the county is only six months, and many of our schools are running 8 or 9 months it follows that there must be many schools in the county with a school term much shorter than six months. These things ought not so to be brethren. We should not be willing to do away with educational campaigns until all of our schools are running for nine months each year.

Now a word about libraries. Ten years ago there were not more than 3 or 4 school libraries in the county. Since the passage of the school library act Marion county has established 56 libraries and enlarged 30 of them. In other words almost every school in the county has a small library. Only one county in the state has a better record than Marion in this respect and that is Laurens with 59 libraries established, and 39 enlarged. Before looking up this record I thought I would have the pleasure of claiming for Marion the distinction of being the banner county of the state in reference to the number of libraries established. Being disappointed here I have tried to find something in which Marion does excel all other counties in the state and I think I have succeeded. In the absence of any statistics on the subject I make the claim and feel sure that there is no one here to dispute it, that Marion county employs more bright winsome, charming lady school teachers, and that more of them get married here during their term of service or shortly after, than in any other county in the state.

Most of the male teachers too fall victims of cupid, but in some rare cases they seem immune.

Fourteen years ago Marion district was the only district in the county levying a special tax for school purposes. Marion county now has 26 districts levying a special tax of 2 to 4 mills. Not quite half of the school districts in the county are levying a local tax, yet only 3 counties in the state—Barnwell, Orangeburg and Spartanburg—have more districts levying a special tax than Marion. Orangeburg is in the lead having 45 districts which tax themselves for school purposes. The subject of taxation is sacred ground and it is not always safe to tread upon it except with shoes removed, yet the hope of our schools depend upon a successful invasion of this territory. As the law now stands a community cannot levy a school tax of more than 4 mills with a possible two mills additional where a state high school is established. With property returned for taxation at 25 or 50 per cent of its value it is almost impossible for any community to raise funds

sufficient to run its school properly. It is true, that more than half of the school districts in the state are levying no tax at all for school purposes, yet it is equally true that those districts which are levying to the limit of the law could make the work done in their schools more efficient with a larger revenue. The law should be Continued Next Week.

## RACE MEET AT CHERAW.

Mysterious "Dark Horse" will Try to Beat "Alphonso."

Cheraw, August 15.—Special: The races in Cheraw on next Tuesday, the 17th, promise to be exceedingly good. There will be more horses on the track than have been on any track in the Pee Dee circuit this year. The following horses are either here now or on the way: Mr. Gibson's Brownie, Mr. Elliott's Sir Henry and Maxine Payne, Mr. Huggins's His Leige and another horse, Mr. Drake's King Alphonso, who has so far beaten nearly everything in sight, Mr. Edwards's Margarite and horses of Messrs. Stackhouse, Graham, Cannon, McCall, Cooley, Exum and others. Those interested in these races will be especially interested to know that a "dark horse" will be on the track for the express purpose of beating King Alphonso. Six hundred dollars will be given in prizes. The judges will be Dr. Heise and Dr. McGregor, of the State Fair races and Mr. W. L. Clement, of Greensboro, N. C. The rules of the National Trotting Association will be observed, and everything will be clean and fair.

## Death of Miss Nancie Edens.

Miss Nancie Edens, daughter of Mr and Mrs. J. P. Edens died at her home in Bennettsville Sunday afternoon at 6 o'clock. Miss Edens was twenty two years of age, and was a young woman of many christian traits of character. She leaves ten sisters and brothers besides her sorrowing parents and a host of relatives to mourn her untimely end. Miss Edens frequently visited relatives here the McDonald and Edens-family who have the sympathy of the community.

## Hot Shot for Mary.

Here's an obituary notice taken from a Missouri paper, which isn't afraid to call a spade a spade: "While it is almost a crime to speak ill of the dead, we feel it our duty to tell the truth about Mrs. Mary Boyer, who died last night. She never spoke a decent word of any person, living or dead, and slander was the joy of her life. If she goes to heaven, we don't want to be there, and we believe we voice the sentiment of every man, woman and child in this town. We will gladly contribute a quarter for ice for Mary. She will need it."

## Not Exempt.

An evangelist was exhorting his hearers to flee from the wrath to come. "I warn you," he thundered, "that there will be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth!"

At this moment an old woman in the gallery stood up. "Sir," she shouted, "I have no teeth."

"Madam," returned the evangelist severely, "teeth will be provided."

The County Board of education met yesterday at Marion to hold the examination for the Citadel scholarship. For this examination only three appeared, Messrs. Gilchrist, Legette and Easterling. It is not for a lack of appreciation of the high standard of the Citadel and the thorough work being done there, that so few compete for these scholarships, which are worth \$250.00 a year. But there is a requirement that the applicants secure a permit from the Citadel authorities before they can attend the examination. Many boys who would like to compete for these scholarships over look this requirement and consequently are debarred from competing.

The Dillon Herald \$1.50 a year.

## PELLAGRA INTERESTINGLY DISCUSSED.

A Description of This Loathsome Disease in its Different Stages by Dr. B. M. Badger. Its Causes, Etc.

Until 1907 very little was known of this disease which is now exciting so much attention among all classes of our people, professional and unprofessional.

Standard medical literature briefly describes the disease as originating in Spain after introduction of Maize or Indian corn from America; spreading thence to Italy and countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea where the corn was cultivated and largely used as an almost exclusive article of diet. And the fact of this loathsome disease being strictly confined to sections where the corn was their principal source of food supply, soon established the theory that there was something more than co-incidence in the relation of the two.

Only two years ago the increased number of cases of a new type of disease introduced in the State Hospital for the insane, induced Dr. J. W. Babcock to pay special attention to a malady which was new to our section, and evidently on the increase; his contributions to the literature on the subject were widely distributed and developed so much interest that the Government sent an expert, Dr. Lavelander to investigate the matter. This was thoroughly done, Dr. Lavelander furnishing valuable scientific data in a technical way to the department of Public Health and Marine service of the United States.

Practically very little was accomplished. There is no absolute certainty as to the cause and saddest of all, no known remedy for a disease that bids fair to become as great a scourge among us as leprosy was among the ancient people of the orient, in fact it is known in Europe as the "Lombardy Leprosy."

Dr. Babcock accompanied by Dr. J. J. Watson visited Italy last year for the purpose of studying the disease and as a result of their familiarizing themselves with its different stages, they have since their return to this country found no difficulty in identifying it in various localities: Wilmington, Morganton and Charlotte, N. C., Augusta, Milledgeville and Atlanta, Ga., and in many places in this State. There are and have been over two hundred cases in the State Hospital under Dr. Babcock. A few weeks ago the writer of this paper was at this institution and was kindly shown by Dr. Thompson over the Pellagra wards. There were a great many in every stage of the disease and new cases were coming in constantly.

The disease begins very insidiously usually in the spring, pains in the limbs and an eruption on the hands, arms, face and feet like sunburn, the skin afterwards becoming rough these symptoms, more or less varying in intensity, last till July or August, then disappear to occur with increased violence the next Spring, and thus on and on for several years, with sore mouth and gums, diarrhoea and great wasting of the body until the patient presents the appearance of one in the last stages of consumption. The suffering is almost unbearable, running sores and festering boils, skin cracked and bleeding and, with all, an object of loathing and pity. The mind under stress of the great physical suffering gives way, and the creature becomes a drivelling idiot or a raving maniac, until death comes as a relief as a relief and closes the scene for very few ever recover. While

it is not absolutely certain that the disease is due to the use of corn there seems to be sufficient reason for caution along this line. The most careful investigators declare, after exhaustive experiments, that if corn is the cause, that cause lies in the condition of the grain. Good sound corn that has been allowed to stand, ripen and fully mature in the fields before harvesting is not only a valuable and nutritious food product, but also utterly harmless as shown by the fact that for more than a hundred years it was the staff of life, not only among the slaves of the South, where it was the exclusive bread or cereal ration but also among the whites, where no dinner table was considered complete without its corn pone or the morning meal without its hominy or grits and the delicious corn mullin.

When the corn however is cut down in the field before full maturity shocked and dried, then shucked, shelled and stored away in great bins or granaries, it easily develops a germ which is poisonous to man or beast—it is then shipped South for bread or if it is too far gone, the distiller buys it and converts it into cheap whiskey appropriately called "rot gut." In either form it is a death dealing agent. Science having discovered that the toxin or poison which is in the bread is very soluble in alcohol. These facts are significant; the disease being unknown when sound corn was used so extensively without a single case of pellagra ever being heard of, but becoming alarmingly common now with the use of shrivelled and musty corn there being over one thousand cases in the State—the indication is plain. Plant and mature our corn in the good old fashioned way, grind it into meal and grits at home as our fathers did and let western corn and man whiskey severely alone.

Benjamin M. Badger, M. D.

## TIMMONSVILLE ENJOYS GREAT DAY OF SPORT

Races and Baseball Games Furnish interest for Summer Stay-at-homes and Visitors.

Timmons ville, Aug. 11.—Timmons ville has never experienced a greater day of sport and enjoyment in her history. Fully 1,000 people witnessed the base ball game and races today. At 10 o'clock an exciting game of ball was played by the Oats club and Timmons ville club, which resulted 5 to 1 in favor of Timmons ville.

At 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon the races started. First race, free-for-all, purse \$200—Entries, Alfonso, owner, Drake of Bennettsville; Alberto, owner, Cannon of Florence; Maxine Payne owner, E. T. Elliott of Marion; Hazelhurst, owner M. B. Huggins of Timmons ville; Belle of Darlington, owner, W. W. Cooley. Alfonso won three straight heats; Alberto second; Belle of Darlington, third. Time, 2.16.

Second race, 2.24 class, purse \$100—Entries, Trilby M. owner, C. F. Moore Postman, owner, M. B. Huggins; Brownie, owner J. B. Gibson; Dolly Dillard, owner, Exum & Drake, Trilby M. won in straight heats; Dolly Dillard second, Postman third.

Third race, \$100 purse, 2:30 class—Entries, Big Joe, owner, Huggins of Timmons ville; Bessie Gentry owner, Cannon of Florence; Black Joe, owner Dupose of Timmons ville; Virginia Deer, owner, Truluck of Lake City. The race was won by Big Joe; second Bessie Gentry, third, Virginia Deer. Time, 2:37½.—Florence Times.